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16 November 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, International Research Area

THROUGH : Chief, Indochina Division

SUBJECT : The Significance of Increased Imports of
Cement by Cambodia in 1967

1. Cambodia's imports of cement in the first five months of 1967 do not appear to be inconsistent with current needs. The average monthly volume of cement imports in that period was higher than in the years 1964-1966, but considerably less than the averages for 1962-1963. The requirements of several major construction projects now underway could have a notable effect on cement imports. For example:

a. The Sihanoukville Phnom Penh railroad calls for the construction of at least 79 reinforced concrete bridges, and over 1,500 culverts and other drainage conduits.

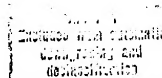
b. Port expansion at Sihanoukville includes the construction of new piers, sea wall and warehouses.

c. Two dams and hydroelectric stations are to be constructed (probably under Soviet and Yugoslav credits).

d. The airport at Siem Reap is to be expanded.

2. We do not believe that shipments of cement have been falsely declared to conceal other cargoes. Imports of North Vietnamese cement were unusually heavy in the first five months of this year but all available evidence indicates that there were no unusual circumstances surrounding the shipments. Because of bomb damage inflicted on the Haiphong Cement Plant in April 1967, there have been no exports of cement from North Vietnam since May, and it is unlikely that there will be any more shipments this year.

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Cambodian Imports of Cement

(Thousand Metric Tons)

	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>January-May</u> <u>1967</u>
Total <u>a/</u>	170	198	112	116	101	68
From North Vietnam <u>b/</u>	N.A.	N.A.	37	36	52	42

- a. From official statistics published by the government of Cambodia.
b. Compiled from data on North Vietnam's seaborne exports. These data may differ somewhat from official Cambodian statistics.

3. In practice, a metric ton of cement can be expected to yield about 2.98 cubic meters of concrete, although a yield of about 3.3 cubic meters is theoretically feasible. The 42,000 tons of cement provided by North Vietnam would yield approximately 125,000 cubic meters of concrete.

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Distribution

- Orig & 1 - Addressee
1 - D/I
2 - TLC

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